

AN EARLY PROTOTYPE

Of that Terrible Battering Ram, the War Steamer Merrimac.

INVENTION OF A PENNSYLVANIAN.

His Pittsburg Descendants Join a Movement Upon Congress

TO SECURE THOMAS GREGG JUST CREDIT

It is said that a memorial will be sent to the next Congress asking the Government to recognize Thomas Gregg, late of Connelville, Fayette county, Pa., as the inventor of the first iron clad ball-proof naval ram. Mr. Gregg was the grandfather of Mrs. D. P. Reighard, Mrs. A. Hamilton and Charles Lytle, of Pittsburg, and father of the late Rev. John C. Gregg, deceased, and grandfather of J. B. and U. S. G. Gregg, of Philadelphia, and these latter, business men, are at the head of the movement. They submit as proof of claim a patent granted Thomas Gregg for a ball-proof vessel on the 9th of March, 1814, bearing the signatures of President James Madison, Secretary of State James Monroe, and Attorney General Richard Rush. This patent was renewed in 1837.



Thos. Gregg's Merrimac.

Thomas Gregg was born in Newcastle, Del., and being all his life an inventor, it is not surprising to say that he died poor. In early manhood he moved to Fayette county, this State, and made the first hammer and nails used in Fayette county. He also made salt and spent the most of his time making iron, and invented the first furnace ever used for smelting iron by use of anthracite coal.

JUST HIS LUCK.

He met the ordinary fate of inventors. While on a visit to Delaware, his foreman, who had been left in charge to test the invention, stole papers, patterns and drawings and fled to England, where he made himself and others rich on the fruits of Mr. Gregg's genius. Mr. Gregg went on making iron, and during the War of 1812 turned his attention to the subject of ball-proof vessels, his labors culminating in the invention of 1813 and patent granted in 1814. In the Journal of the House of Representatives, March 24, 1814, is the entry:

Mr. Wilson presented a memorial of Thomas Gregg, of Pennsylvania, stating that he had invented a ball-proof vessel or floating battery, and presenting a plan of the same, and asking Congress to request that its efficacy may be tested by experiment. Ordered that said memorial be referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

On March 25, 1814, Mr. Lowndes, of South Carolina, moved that the Committee on Naval Affairs be directed to examine the invention of Thomas Gregg and that it be referred to the Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Lowndes conceived a prejudice against the invention, and the result was the production of the terrible Merrimac.

THE MODEL PRESENTED WAS BURNED IN 1836.

In 1837 the patent was renewed, and Mr. Gregg's invention was so pleased with it that he commended it strongly to such lawmakers as Mr. Andrew Pickens and D. Surgeon, of this State, and Messrs. Clayton and Bayard, of Delaware, urging them to push the claims of the inventor.

KERS THE FIRST TO CATCH IT.

The invention was described as ball-proof and impenetrable. In construction it was framed on an angle of 18 degrees all around the hull. The top timbers elevated the hull and the lower ones were designed to direct them under the keel. The power was applied between the keels, where there was a concave formed to receive the motive machinery, the power to be reversed to stop the vessel either way. The principle, it was claimed, protected men and machinery effectually, and was capable of performing more service than half a dozen vessels of that day.

Either intelligence of Mr. Gregg's invention got over into Mills Creek and floated down to the Potomac and "on to Richmond," or some old-time Southern statesman recollected the idea and reported it to the Confederate authorities, and the result was the production of the terrible Merrimac. The Scientific American of May 24, 1864, seems to have been the first to fall to it, and said:

In the course of our investigations at the Patent Office we have come across a patent granted to Thomas Gregg on the 9th of March, 1814, for an invention of a ball-proof vessel to be propelled by steam, which on examination appears to be an almost perfect model of the Merrimac. The sides were to be plated with iron inclined at an angle of 18 degrees, and the hull was to be made of such a material as to be used as a ram. This prototype of the late triumph of the Merrimac, it is observed, was patented only seven years after the introduction of steam navigation.

AFTER JUST RECOGNITION.

The next number of that journal, in a page devoted to the subject, headed "The Merrimac Patented 45 Years Ago," says: "The Merrimac was the first of the iron-clad vessels. The sides were to be plated with iron inclined at an angle of 18 degrees, and the hull was to be made of such a material as to be used as a ram. This prototype of the late triumph of the Merrimac, it is observed, was patented only seven years after the introduction of steam navigation."

Soon after the war some Pennsylvanians memorialized Congress, setting forth that Mr. Gregg had spent much money in his efforts to benefit the Government, and like many other originators had died comparatively poor, and that the Government should recognize as the inventor of the ball-proof iron-clad, and that a liberal appropriation be made to his widow who was in such circumstances as to render her grateful for such justice. The memorial still slumbers in the waste lumber gallery along with the French spoliation claims and thousands of others lacking powerful lobby leverage. Rev. John C. Gregg 21 years ago wrote this of the invention and his father:

ON THE JOHNSTOWN FLOOD.

A Pittsburg Making Arrangements to Publish a Book About It.

Frank Connelly, of this city, went to Philadelphia last night to make arrangements for the publication of his book of the Johnstown flood. The work will be issued by Porter & Coates, of the Quaker City, and a well-known book publisher, who promises to revolutionize the old-established system of naval warfare, I humbly submit that a reference to the records of the Patent Office at Washington and to some individuals who are still living will conclusively establish the claim of Thomas Gregg and do justice to his genius as the real inventor.

THE SONS OF JOHNSTOWN'S DEAD.

Rev. Mr. Williams, of the Universalist Church, which holds meetings in the Union Veterans Legion's Hall, on Sixth avenue, preached last night on "Where Are the Souls of the Dead at Johnstown?" The sermon was a doctrinal discourse, drawn from material furnished by the disaster. He said that the souls of all were with their God—said.

ADDITORS TO THE WORKHOUSE.

Magistrate John Gripp sent John Golden, Jack Jones, Charles Munser, James Conner, Katie Meyers, Mary Williams and Michael Kane for 30 days to the workhouse yesterday on various offenses.

HARRISON'S OUTING.

The President Listens to a Sermon in a Church Built by Mr. Wanamaker—A Pleasant Day at Cape May—All Callers to be Received To-Day.

CAPE MAY, N. J., June 23.—A great many people were disappointed this morning because the President and Mrs. Harrison did not worship at the Presbyterian Church here, as a rumor that they would do so had gone abroad. It had been arranged, however, that the Presidential party should attend service at the Beadle Memorial Presbyterian Church at Cape May Point, which stands directly upon the beach within a stone's throw of the Wanamaker cottage. It is not being very widely known that the beautiful little edifice was not uncomforably crowded. It was two minutes of 17 when the President, Mrs. Harrison, Mr. Wanamaker, Mrs. Harrison's father, and Rev. Dr. Wylie came in. Dr. Wylie is pastor of the Broad Street Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, and officiated on this occasion.

The Rev. Dr. Scott said behind the sacred desk with Dr. Wylie. The pulpit was a fine choir the service began by singing "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," followed by a short prayer by the officiating clergyman. Hymn 83 of the church hymnal was then sung, beginning "Safely through another and another day has brought us on." The scriptural lesson read was from the sixteenth chapter of Acts, beginning at the ninth verse. The venerable Dr. Scott then offered a prayer, in which he mentioned the President and the Government officials were remembered. After singing Dr. Wylie announced his text, found in Philippians IV., "Let every man be perfect, supply all your needs according to His riches in Christ Jesus."

The sermon was an able discourse delivered with notes and listened to with close attention by the President and Mrs. Harrison. After singing "God bless our native land" the services closed with the benediction pronounced by Dr. Scott. Beadle Memorial Church was built by Mr. Wanamaker several years since in memory of Elias R. Beadle, D. D., LL. D. After returning from church the President and Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Wanamaker took seats on the veranda, over which the cool refreshing sea breezes softly played. William McKean, of the Philadelphia Ledger, and one or two other gentlemen were the only callers, it having been said that only a few personal friends were admitted to-day. To-morrow forenoon, it is understood, the President will receive all who may wish to call. From all the surrounding country to-day visitors have come to catch a glimpse of the President and his guests. At 1 o'clock to-morrow the President will leave for Washington in Mr. Sewell's private car, but has promised to return on Saturday.

IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE.

An Unwelcome and Unpleasant Guest Finally Firmly Dismissed.

WASHINGTON, June 23.—Washington has been long notorious for a small class of hard-faced, persistent people who make the rounds of fashionable entertainments and receptions without either invitations or the acquaintance of the people upon whom they intrude. They are of both sexes, and are like marauding bands of robbers. One was well down last season, and taught a lesson he will never forget. A certain club in the West End is noted for its exclusiveness. At a dance given by it this evening an appearance was made of a man in an appearance faultlessly attired and complacent in prospect of a pleasant evening, topped off with fine collation. Several of the floor managers were called to attention, and he was called to the conspicuous stranger, whom none of them knew. By a comparison of notes it was quickly discovered that none of the invited guests had invited him, and he was an invitation, and only one knew even his name. That one approached him and asked:

KERS THE FIRST TO CATCH IT.

"Will you inform me whose guest you are this evening?" The intruder hemmed and hawed, but did not afford the desired information. "You will have to pardon me," continued the gentleman, "but it is necessary to know the name of the friend who invited you here."

Not receiving any satisfactory response, the floor manager continued: "You fail to see what I am trying to make plain to you, sir. You are one of a class in this city who force themselves upon the society of people with whom they are not acquainted, and who come to exclusive entertainments without the formality of an invitation. Now, if you will take my arm I will conduct you to the cloak room. If you should go alone it would cause comment, but if you will take my arm people will think you are an acquaintance, and the result will be the production of the terrible Merrimac. The Scientific American of May 24, 1864, seems to have been the first to fall to it, and said:

CAUGHT BY A SCHMER.

An Alleged Internal Revenue Collector Blackmailed Jeannette's Legal Sale.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.—GREENSBORO, Pa., June 23.—Jeannette, the "peep-show" saloon at Greensboro, Pa., has been operated upon by a sleek individual who drew from them a liberal assessment to secure secrecy in their alleged efforts. There are about 30 illegal saloons in the town, and on Saturday a man representing himself to be a deputy internal revenue collector came upon them and assured the breakers of the law that by paying him \$200 each he would allow the sale to continue uninterrupted. The scheme was successful, and the stranger left the town several hundred dollars richer. A number of intimates when they got another black eye from the County granted a hotel license to Captain Dexter White, which was at the last term of court refused. White's attorney quickly availed the chance to present the petition for a rehearing when the temperance people were most all out of court, but Uncle John Cessna dropped in during the proceedings and raised a racket, but with no effect. The license was granted, and Mr. White to-morrow will again commence to cater to the public.

READY FOR BUSINESS.

One of Bedford's Refused Liquor Dealers Succeeds on the Second Trial.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.—BEDFORD, June 23.—The temperance people of Bedford had hardly recovered from the news of the defeat of their petition when they got another black eye from the County granted a hotel license to Captain Dexter White, which was at the last term of court refused. White's attorney quickly availed the chance to present the petition for a rehearing when the temperance people were most all out of court, but Uncle John Cessna dropped in during the proceedings and raised a racket, but with no effect. The license was granted, and Mr. White to-morrow will again commence to cater to the public.

Opposed to Firemen's Palnors.

The German Teachers' Assembly held its regular meeting yesterday. A petition of the Painters' Union, of Allegheny, to the City Council asking that the engine houses of that city be painted by skilled workmen instead of the firemen, was introduced. It was reported that the carpenters are having difficulty with Herman Straub, the Bloomfield brewer, who is said to be having a house erected by non-union men. The assembly decided to give the matter a moral and financial assistance possible.

It Was Only a Cat.

Officer Boyd, of the Southside, was called to investigate a supposed burglary in a house on Wright's alley early yesterday morning. He found Mrs. Smith and her family, who occupied the house, standing on the sidewalk. They claimed that there was a burglar in the cellar, and that they had escaped. The officer entered the cellar and discovered a cat with its head fastened in a fruit jar, making a noise that sounded something like burglars. It was released, and the family re-entered their house.

A WORK OF CHARITY.

Silesian Missionaries of the Order of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

ENGAGED IN A NOBLE CAUSE.

Laboring for the Advancement and Care of Homeless Italian Orphans.

IN BARNET AND ANXIOUS TO SUCCEED

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.

NEW YORK, June 23.—During the past few weeks, dark-faceted women in the garb of Sisters of Charity have been going through the Italian quarters in the East and in Little Italy, climbing up dark, steep and narrow stairways, diving down into foul basements and into dens where even a New York policeman does not care to enter without assistance. These women are all slight and delicate. They wear a peculiar veil, unlike that of the usual religious devotees, and few can speak English. They are members of an order entirely new to this country, the Silesian missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is an Italian organization of nuns who look after the welfare of orphans, and all that are engaged in this work are of Italian birth. The half dozen located in this city are pioneers in the United States, and they came upon the solicitation of Archbishop Corrigan and Mrs. Luigi P. Di Censola, wife of General Di Censola, the director of the Silesian mission in New York.

REQUESTED BY THE ARCHBISHOP.

The Archbishop and Mrs. Di Censola wrote to Lombardy, the headquarters of the missionaries, last November, requesting that a branch be established in this country. They were induced to do so because of the terrible condition in which many poor Italian children were in this city. Of the many thousands of Italians in New York a very large majority were sunk in extreme poverty and ignorance.

This was particularly so in the case of those newly arrived in this country. Unable to provide, with any degree of decency, for themselves, they of course could do little for their children, and these were allowed to grow up in abject ignorance. Many were abandoned or driven forth into the streets to beg, or to go to the means of subsistence.

One cannot walk the streets without encountering hundreds of little Italian boys who only know the English language in the phrase: "Shine boots, five cents, mista." The pennies they collect are not their own, but go to some padrone who supplies their outer outfit and gives them a mere pittance for the small amount they earn. Of the Italian girls who are

HOMELESS AND FORSAKEN

their misery may not be so apparent, but it is even greater.

The Silesian missionaries came here in March, but were not able to begin operations until some time later. They now occupy a large yellow stone house on East Twenty-sixth street, near Park avenue. It is rather cold and forbidding looking on the outside, but the interior is bright and cheerful. The floors are stained, and rugs are scattered around plentifully. The American missionaries of the Silesian order, Father Superior General. She is a dark-skinned, but sympathetic woman, with large, coal-black eyes and a winning smile. She cannot talk English. She is very much in earnest, and anxious that her mission should be successful. As soon as the branch here is firmly established she will return to Europe, leaving another missionary charge here. She is the founder of the order, and has done wonderful work in providing refuge for "our object," she said, "is to rescue the Italian orphans of the city from the misery and dangers that surround them, and to make good men and women of them. At present we are especially

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who have no decent homes, but later on we shall look out for the boys also. We include, under the title of orphans, not only the fatherless or motherless, but also the children that are abandoned or whose parents do not properly care for them. We have found that many children are abandoned shortly after they reach this city. Their parents have come here expecting to be able to support them, but they learn their mistake, and being unprovided with money, they set the children adrift to care for themselves. Then, too, there are many poor Italian girls who are barely able to supply food for the numerous mouths dependent on them, and they are glad to let us take some of their children and bring them up properly. Of late things have been somewhat better, because of the work of the Italian priests who came to New York at the request of the Pope, but there is still a great deal to be done.

We take children between the ages of 4

and 15 years, house, feed and clothe them, and train them, mentally and physically, so that they may be good citizens and good workers. Our mode of work is to go right down into the Italian quarters, and go from house to house, from apartment to apartment. We are barely able to supply food for the numerous mouths dependent on them, and they are glad to let us take some of their children and bring them up properly. Of late things have been somewhat better, because of the work of the Italian priests who came to New York at the request of the Pope, but there is still a great deal to be done.

PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTIONS.

All the Italians of wealth approve of our course, as well as the Catholic clergy, and we hope soon to be able to do more. As we are not yet able to do more, we intend to have a larger house, where we can accommodate all the children that come to us.

The work of these women is very trying,

and many hardships. Any one who has ever been in the Italian quarters where these missionaries go, can realize something of the unpleasantness of their task. Sky-scraper tenements, in which hundreds of families are huddled together, ill-mellling rooms, drunken men and surly women—all these must be encountered on every trip. Many of these Italian girls, who have abandoned all religion and are atheists. They have no sympathy with the meek, kindly-faced women who devote their lives to charity, and frequently very gruff in their behavior toward them. Still the missionaries persist in their work, and try to save the children of even these men, unmindful of the jeers and even

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Beware of IMITATIONS

June 24-1889

A MARVELOUS TALE.

How a Forger Expresses His Confidence That He Will Escape From Justice—He Knows Too Much to be Prosecuted—A General Individual.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., June 23.—A. C.

Williams, arrested some days ago for forging the name of Arthur Gorham, of Boston, for a draft of \$500, has made another statement of events leading up to his arrest. He states that he nursed Gorham for a month while the latter was sick and that Gorham, on recovering, was very grateful and promised to provide for him all his life. Gorham sent him on a pleasure trip to London and in Little Italy, climbing up dark, steep and narrow stairways, diving down into foul basements and into dens where even a New York policeman does not care to enter without assistance. These women are all slight and delicate. They wear a peculiar veil, unlike that of the usual religious devotees, and few can speak English. They are members of an order entirely new to this country, the Silesian missionaries of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is an Italian organization of nuns who look after the welfare of orphans, and all that are engaged in this work are of Italian birth. The half dozen located in this city are pioneers in the United States, and they came upon the solicitation of Archbishop Corrigan and Mrs. Luigi P. Di Censola, wife of General Di Censola, the director of the Silesian mission in New York.

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NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

ONYX CLOCKS.

We have opened a nice assortment of Onyx Clocks of our own importation which we can sell at astonishingly low prices. We would be pleased to have you call and see them at our

NEW JEWELRY STORE,

37 FIFTH AVENUE,

WATTS & SHEAFER,

Sign of Big Clock on Sidewalk.

We will close our store at 5 P. M., except Saturdays, until September 1.

THIS IS A POSITIVE

BANKRUPT SALE

of the entire stock of J. R. ANDERSON, of 128 Federal street, at the

NUMEROUS CUSTOMERS

will attest who have enjoyed this

SPOT CASH

purchase from the Sheriff of

DRY GOODS,

Lace Curtains

Carpetings

and Notions.

T. M. LATIMER,

138 Federal St., Allegheny, Pa.

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Misses' and Boys'

Blouse Waists,

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Our lines of these goods for this

season are now all in stock. The

largest assortment we have yet

shown in Scotch Wool, Silk and

Wool Flannels and Surah Silk,

Percales and French Cheviots,

ranging from \$1.50 to \$5.50 each.

Extra large sizes in Men's Flannel

Shirts a specialty.

A beautiful line of Sash Ribbons

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Tennis wear.

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Why do you pay \$1.00 per bottle

for Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and

Dysentery Remedy when you can

get it for 50 cents? Because the

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effective cathartic. After giving

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Use the Anchor Remedy. It will

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